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NEWTON COUNTY, 1853-1911.

[By John Ade. Map. 314 pp. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. 1911.]

Mr. Ade is one of the oldest settlers of Newton county, assisted in its organization, and has occupied a prominent place in its annals. His son, George Ade, has won a national reputation by his writings, but the father turns to literature only after retirement from active life. As he modestly puts it, "Most of the subject matter offered herewith was prepared during 1910 and was written, partly because I had been requested by friends to do so, but principally because I wished to occupy my mind and fill in the time. I am supposed to be too old to engage in actual business, but having been accustomed to constant employment of some kind ever since I was twelve years of age, it naturally goes hard with me to sit around and do nothing." Local historians may well congratulate themselves on Mr. Ade's frame of mind, for his history is very interesting and very much worth while. Many facts and reminiscences are here brought to light which would otherwise have been lost.

The first chapters give a good account by way of personal experiences of early conditions, while the later ones contain much information in convenient form about the men and the institutions of the county. Lists of county officials, pastors of the churches, and towns and additions to them, make the work valuable for reference. Altogether Mr. Ade has done a good piece of work, and it is to be hoped that this history of Newton county will have a good circulation. C. B. C.

RAFINESQUE, LIFE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

[By T. J. Fitzpatrick, M. S. Illustrated. 239 pp. The Historical Department of Iowa. 1911.]

Samuel Rafinesque is one of the most brilliant as well as most picturesque figures in American science. His peculiarities, and the conditions under which he worked, barely prevented him from being one of the great names in the scientific advancement of the world. He is of local interest in Indiana through his

being one of the "boatload of learning" which went down the Ohio from Pittsburgh to Hendersonville, and then overland to New Harmony. He did a good deal of botanizing in this State, and was acquainted with the leading scientific lights of the country and with many public men, such as Henry Clay, who were interested in the promotion of science and culture.

Mr. Fitzpatrick has done a most excellent piece of work in collecting all available information about Rafinesque. The biographical and the bibliographical parts both seem to be exhaustive and well-nigh definitive. It is one of the best books of the kind published in this country. It is well illustrated with a portrait and many facsimiles.

Of the bits of autobiography included, the reviewer can not forbear to give the following, in spite of its length, as a description of Rafinesque's field work in this country some seventy-five years ago:

"Let the practical Botanist who wishes like myself to be a pioneer of science, and to increase the knowledge of plants, be fully prepared to meet dangers of all sorts in the wild groves and mountains of America. The mere fatigue of a pedestrian journey is nothing compared to the gloom of solitary forests, when not a human being is met for many miles, and if met he may be mistrusted; when the food and collections must be carried in your pocket or knapsack from day to day; when the fare is not only scanty but sometimes worse; when you must live on corn bread and salt pork, be burnt and steamed by a hot sun at noon, or drenched by rain, even with an umbrella in hand, as I always had.

"Mosquitoes and flies often annoy you or suck your blood if you stop or leave a hurried step. Gnats dance before the eyes and often fall in unless you shut them; insects creep on you and into your ears. Ants crawl on you whenever you rest on the ground, wasps will assail you like furies if you touch their nests. But ticks, the worst of all, are unavoidable whenever you go among bushes, and stick to you in crowds, filling your skin with pimples and sores. Spiders, gallineps, horse-flies and other obnoxious insects will often beset you, or sorely hurt you. Hateful

snakes are met, and if poisonous are very dangerous, some do not warn you off like the Rattle-snakes.

"You meet rough or muddy roads to vex you, and blind paths to perplex you, rocks, mountains, and steep ascents. You may often lose your way, and must always have a compass with you as I had. You may be lamed in climbing rocks for plants or break your limbs by a fall. You must cross and wade through brooks, creeks, rivers and swamps. In deep fords or in swift streams you may lose your footing and be drowned. You may be overtaken by a storm, the trees fall around you, the thunder roars and strikes before you. The winds may annoy you, the fire of heaven or of men sets fire to the grass or forest, and you may be surrounded by it, unless you fly for your life.

"You may travel over a[n] unhealthy region or in a sickly season, you may fall sick on the road and become helpless, unless you be very careful, abstemious and temperate.

"Such are some of the dangers and troubles of a botanical excursion in the mountains and forests of North America. The sedentary botanists or those who travel in carriages or by steamboats know little of them; those who merely herborize near a city or town do not appreciate the courage of those who brave such dangers to reap the botanical wealth of the land, nor sufficiently value the collections thus made.

"Yet, although I have felt all those miseries, I have escaped some to which others are liable. I have never been compelled to sleep at night on the grounds, but have always found a shelter. I have never been actually starved, nor assailed by snakes or wild beasts, nor robbed, nor drowned, nor suddenly unwell. Temperance and the disuse of tobacco have partly availed me, and always kept me in health" [pp. 57-58].

C. B. C.

INDIANAPOLIS AND THE CIVIL WAR.

[By John H. Holliday. Paper covers. 70 pp. Indiana Historical Society Publications, Vol. IV, No. 9. Indianapolis.]

This monograph is of value not only to local history, but to national as well. It gives an authoritative account of the course of the war as viewed from an important, and in some respects